

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05452 281734Z

44

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /084 W

----- 079395

P R 281638Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4110

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5452

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, UR

SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN DELEGATION SOON TO VISIT MOSCOW

REF: BEIRUT 5296

SUMMARY: 'ARAFAT AND 6-MAN PLO DEL APPEAR FIN-
ALLY ON VERGE OF TRAVELING TO MOSCOW, WHERE
THEIR TALKS ARE LIKELY TO BE PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT
IN LIGHT OF (A) GROMYKO'S RECENT STATEMENT RE
SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL; AND (B)
PROSPECT OF RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ALL INDICATIONS AVAILABLE TO USE ARE THAT PAL-
ESTINIAN DEL, HEADED BY YASIR 'ARAFAT, WILL SOON
DEPART--POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS APRIL 28--FROM DAM-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 05452 281734Z

ASCUS FOR HIS MUCH-HERALDED VISIT TO MOSCOW. IN

ADDITION TO 'ARAFAT, COMPOSITION OF PLO DEL, AS
BEST WE CAN DETERMINE FROM VARIOUS UNOFFICIAL
SOURCES HERE, WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

(AL ABDUL MUHSEN ABU MAYZAR (INDEPENDENT,
OFFICIAL PLO SPOKESMAN)

(B) ZUHAYR MUHSEN (SA'IQA, HEAD OF PLO
MILITARY DEPT.)

(C) FAROUQ QADDUMI (FATAH, HEAD OF PLO
POLITICAL DEPT.)

(D) YASSIR ABD RABBU (PDFLP, HEAD OF PLO
INFO DEPT.)

(E) MUHAMMED ZEHDY NASHASHIBI (INDEPENDENT,
SECRETARY OF PLO EXCOMM)

(F) COL. (RET) ABDUL AZIZ AL WAJIIH (IN-
DEPENDENT, DEP. SECY. OF PLO EXCOMM)

2. ABD RABBU, AT APR 26 PRESS CONFERENCE HERE,
STATED THAT PLO DEL'S UPCOMING VISIT TO USSR
ASSUMES "EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE" BECAUSE IT TAKES
PLACE AT TIME WHEN QUESTION OF RECONVENING GENEVA
CONFERENCE IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WHEN USG AND
ISRAEL ARE "SEEKING TO ABORT" GENEVA AND PROCEED
WITH "SEPARATE AGREEMENTS." IN ADDITION, LOCAL
PALESTINIAN RUMOR MILL IS AGAIN FULL OF SPECULA-
TION RE EARLY FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-
EXILE, WHICH SOVS ALLEGEDLY WILL URGE 'ARAFAT TO
PUT TOGETHER IN FASHION THAT REFLECTS "IDEOLOGICAL
COMPLEXION" OF FEDAYEEN MOVEMENT.

3. TWO ITEMS APPEARING APR 28 IN BEIRUT PRESS
RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT SA'IQA'S ZUHAYR MUHSEN MAY
NOT RPT NOT ACTUALLY MAKE TRIP TO MOSCOW. DAILY
AN NAHAR QUOTES MUHSEN AS RAISING DOUBTS ABOUT
SOVIET STRATEGY. "BIG SIN COMMITTED BY OUR RUS-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 05452 281734Z

SIAN FRIENDS," ACCORDING TO MUHSEN, "IS THAT THEY
THINK THEY CAN COMPETE WITH THE AMERICANS DIPLO-
MATICALLY." LOCAL ARAB INFORMATION AGENCY (ANA)
ALSO QUOTES MUHSEN AS SAYING GENEVA CONFERENCE
WILL NOT BENEFIT ARAB CAUSE, AND THAT ARABS SHOULD
HENCEFORTH RELY ON FORCE INSTEAD OF DIPLOMACY.
MUHSEN REPORTEDLY ASSURED ANA HE WILL NOT
RPT NOT ACCOMPANY PALESTINIAN DEL, DESPITE PUBLIC CLAIMS TO

CONTRARY.

4 COMMENT: PLO LEADERSHIP IS LIKELY TO BE ANXIOUS OVER TURN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH SOVS WILL TAKE IN MOSCOW. INDEED, THEY MAY BE ANTICIPATING UPCOMING TALKS, AS KIND OF "MOMENT OF TRUTH" IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH USSR. ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO REACT TO GROMYKO'S APR 23 REMARKS RE SECURITY GUARANTEES FOR ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE (MOSCOW 5836 NOTAL), PLO SPOKESMAN HAVE STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED ALL COMMENT. IN FACT, PLO NEWS AGENCY (Wafa) WENT SO FAR AS TO DELTE PASSAGE RELATING TO GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL WHEN IT PUBLISHED FULL TEXT OF GROMYKO'S SPEECH IN Wafa DAILY NEWS BULLETIN. WE LEAVE IT TO DAMASCUS TO JUDGE WHETHER MUHSEN'S REMARKS REPRESENT OPENING SYRIAN RES-POSE TO GROMYKO, WHO MADE HIS REMARKS DURING RECENT VISIT OF SAG FONMIN KHADDAM. IT OUR EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, THAT MUHSEN IS NOT KNOWN FOR ASSUMING PUBLIC POSITIONS ON SUCH MATTERS WITHOUT SARG APPROVAL.

5. 'ARAFAT, IN OUR VIEW, DOUBTLESS ANTICIPATES THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW HAVE IT IN MIND TO BRING PLO LEADERSHIP MORE FULLY "INTO LINE" WITH RUSSIAN PREPARATIONS AND THINKING FOR RECONVENED GENEVA CONFERENCE. PERHAPS WITH THIS PROSPECT IN VIEW, HE APPEARS TO HAVE "PACKED" PLO DEL NOT ONLY WITH CUSTOMARY REPS FROM SO-CALLED "MODERATE" (I.E., NON-"REJECTIONIST") FEDAYEEN GROUPS, BUT ALSO WITH "INDEPEN-DENTS" AND PALESTINE NATIONAL FRONT PERSONALITIES (WEST BANK EXPELLEES) WHO GENERALLY CAN E COUNTED UPON TO SUPPORT HIS POLICY-LINE IN DEALINGS WITH SOVS. BY THIS MEANS, 'ARAFAT PROBALLY HOPES TO MAINTAIN MAXIMUM CONTROL AND FLEXIBILITY IN WHAT HE FORESEES AS IMPORTANT, BUR RATHER ARDU- OUS DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW.

GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 05452 281734Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT05452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750148-0673
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaahtl.tel
Line Count: 154
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 5296
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <05 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINIAN DELEGATION SOON TO VISIT MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, UR, PLO, (ARAFAT, YASSER)
To: STATE MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006